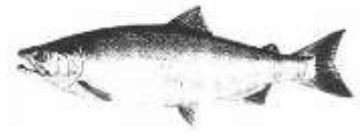


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Date Issued: Friday, June 8, 2012, 2:00 pm

Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #4

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Within the Southern District, waters of the Barabara Creek Subdistrict, the Tutka Bay Subdistrict, the Halibut Cove Subdistrict and the Seldovia Bay Subdistrict remain open to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday until further notice. Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict, including both the Port Graham and English Bay sections, will remain closed to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing until further notice as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to English Bay lakes. These areas may open to commercial harvest when spawning escapement levels are tracking to meet the combined inriver goal of 11,028 – 18,528 fish for this system. As of June 7, a total of 41 fish had passed the English Bay River weir versus an anticipated 250 for this date. During the two fishing periods that have occurred this season, a total of 948 sockeye, 15 Chinook, and 21 chum salmon were harvested from the Southern District. The harvested Chinook salmon likely originated from hatchery remote releases in Halibut Cove Lagoon where an average of 91,000 smolt have been released annually since 1975. The 5-year average cumulative harvests for June 6 are 1,200 sockeye, 35 Chinook and 12 chum salmon.

KAMISHAK BAY DISTRICT: In the Kamishak Bay District, all waters, with the exception of the McNeil and Paint River subdistricts, remain open on a seven days per week schedule, until further notice. The McNeil and Paint River subdistricts are being closed early as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to Mikfik Lake. The Chenik Subdistrict will close to commercial harvest on June 18 in anticipation of the sockeye salmon return to Chenik Lake and will reopen to commercial harvest when escapement is within the sustainable escapement goal range for that system.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association began cost recovery on Monday, May 21 in Resurrection Bay. As of June 7, a total of 49,700 sockeye salmon had been harvested. This compares to an anticipated cumulative harvest of 127,000 fish for this date assuming an total forecast return of 216,000 fish. Actual cost recovery harvest vs. anticipated harvest by day is shown below.

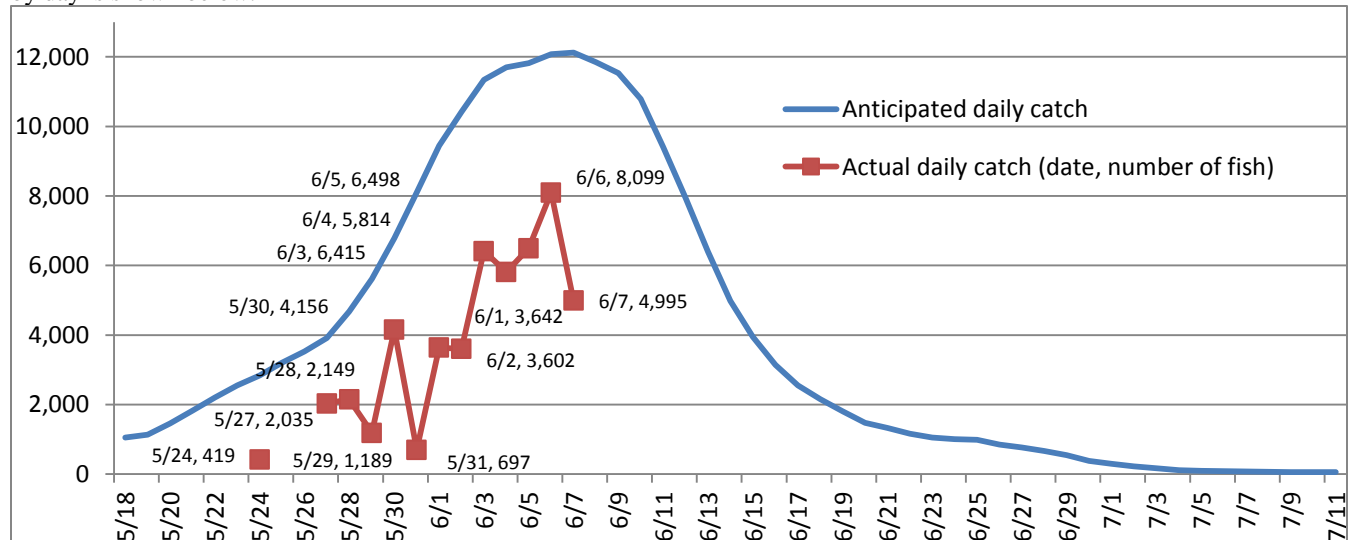


Figure 1.- Anticipated versus actual cost recovery harvest levels in the Resurrection Bay North Subdistrict, as of June 7.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, June 15.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307. Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.